

WISITANIA CASE SETTLED, GERMAN ENVOY BELIEVES

Bernstorff Confers With Lansing—Changes Made by Berlin Satisfactory

OTHER ISSUES LOOM UP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The Lusitania incident is as good as settled, I believe, a statement showing this will be forthcoming from the State Department next Friday morning.

That was the announcement made by Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador, at the conclusion of his conference with Secretary Lansing today. He stated that Secretary Lansing considered the amended agreement submitted by Germany as "practically satisfactory," but that he would have to show it to President Wilson and secure his approval before accepting it on behalf of the United States Government.

Count von Bernstorff was with Secretary Lansing for exactly 15 minutes. When he emerged he was beaming, he characterized his conference as very pleasant, but explained that he could not make any announcement himself other than that already quoted.

SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT It is understood that one of the reasons why an immediate announcement cannot be made, even though the President should approve the changes in the document when it reaches him, is that the Ambassador requested that any announcement which may be made shall be simultaneous in Germany and the United States.

Secretary Lansing said that he probably will see the President this afternoon or tomorrow. He declined positively to comment in any way on the ambassador's visit. However, he indicated by his general demeanor that he does not believe that there will be any further negotiations with Berlin.

In addition to discussing the Lusitania situation the Ambassador took up with Secretary Lansing the attitude of the Government toward the connection with the question of defining the status of armed merchantmen. Secretary Lansing very frankly told the German Ambassador that he is hopeful that it will be possible to secure an agreement whereby all of the belligerents can reach a common ground on this question.

WILL USE INFLUENCE ON ALLIES. The United States will continue to press its request that the European belligerents disarm all merchant ships. Although President Wilson has reversed Secretary Lansing's planned policy of acquiescence in the proposed Teutonic policy that merchantmen carrying guns should be attacked by submarines without warning the question still is held open. Lansing will continue to endeavor to reach an agreement with the Entente and Teutonic allies, which will protect the interests of the United States.

President Wilson's reversal of the proposition to accept the proposed Teutonic policy was due to Colonel E. M. House. The latter cabled the President yesterday that to reverse the original policy of this Government by permitting liners to carry guns for defense at the present juncture would be very dangerous. The British House reported, would consider the action as a friendly act. In addition they would seize upon it as failure by the United States to stand on existing international law and use this contention to justify all of their German reprisal acts, including mail seizures and the holding up of neutral trade. Colonel House, it is understood, cabled the President that France sympathized with the American position on mails and trade and strongly urged that no action be taken to alienate that sympathy.

Ambassador von Bernstorff also took up with Secretary Lansing the suppression of reports of the German Admiralty by United States censors at the wireless stations in this country where they were received. The Ambassador declared that several reports of the Admiralty, dealing with naval operations which were intended for the press in this country, were held up by the wireless censors. Among the cases he cited was the report of the sinking of the British cruiser Arabis. Secretary Lansing promised the Ambassador that he would investigate the matter at once, and find out why the messages were held up.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

- Alfred H. Holland, 1215 Dorrance st., and Elizabeth Garner, 1215 Dorrance st.
Ralph A. Tolson, 240 N. Franklin st., and Irene B. Kretzer, 240 N. Franklin st.
Evelyn O'Neil, 1026 Girard ave., and Katie McKelvey, 1215 N. Alder st.
William J. Harrison, 1219 Hazard st., and Audrey L. Thompson, 1219 Hazard st.
Annie C. Carls, Trenton, and Margaret D. Clegg, 1314 Passayunk ave.
Emanuel S. Glick, Trenton, and Carrie Rosenblith, 1228 S. 20th st., and Philip Yaskil, 319 Marshall st., and Mary Hatal, 319 Marshall st.
Aron Dorfman, 507 N. 25th st., and Ida Hoffman, 502 N. Marshall st.
Jonas Galtis, 1019 Carlton st., and Rosalia Nestulite, 1019 Carlton st.
Jon Grabias, 1019 Carlton st., and Katie Sarayon, 2210 Summer st.
John W. Keyser, 1427 N. 25th st., and Emma F. Koch, Germantown, Pa.
Henry C. Kugler, 2520 Hunter ave., and Anna Matlock, 2520 Hunter ave.
Howard N. Hill, Metal, Pa., and Edna E. Fleming, Philadelphia.
Anton Hoffmann, Frankford, Phila., and Mar- tin Broecker, 1827 Chestnut-st.
James Buchanan, 1314 Cabot st., and Catherine McLaughlin, 1314 Cabot st.
Henry B. Crenshaw, 1314 Cabot st., and Catherine Farmer, 625 Lancaster ave.
William J. Murphy, 1219 Hazard st., and M. Bernard, 5020 Germantown ave.
Benjamin H. Hoffman, 4105 Oden st., and Dorcas A. Martin, 4105 Oden st.
Douglas M. Hoffecker, New London, Conn., and Emma F. Lewis, 1219 Hazard st.
Edward Lee, 911 French st., and Helen M. Munn, 244 Laughrin st.
Samuel Wiestsky, 730 Segal st., and Beatie Kauer, 1514 S. 25th st.
Daniel Thomas, 1627 N. Warrock st., and Ida Grish, 1627 N. Warrock st.
Mae Elsie, Camden, N. J., and Thillie Cas-kowitz, 101 Baltimore st.
George T. Noyes, Germantown ave., and Jessie A. Morrison, Nicotown, Pa.
Charles C. Fisher, 1314 E. 21st st., and Sarah D. McCleary, 1314 E. 21st st.
Edward A. Mayer, 1314 Germantown ave., and Katherine P. Lewis, 1314 W. 24th st.
Hall Moss, 220 Pierce st., and Esther Boland, 220 Pierce st.
Maurice Rappaport, 703 Rudley st., and Anna Paul, 703 Rudley st.
John C. Fries, 220 Albert st., and Eliza-beth A. Hruschens, 220 E. Collins st.
John Lankowski, 1314 W. 24th st., and Eliza-beth Klorhaus, 1414 N. 25th st.
James Duff, 1314 W. 24th st., and Margaret McWilliam, 2589 Richmond st.

AN EXCELLENT TONIC FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN'S HAIR BALDPATE HAIR TONIC NEVER FAILS

Nourishes and strengthens the follicles and thus promotes the growth of the hair. Relieves the scalp of unhealthy accumulations and secretions. Gives a rich gloss, is highly perfumed and free from oil makes the hair light and airy. Send 15c for trial size. Application at all first-class Barber Shops. BALDPATE CO. (Dept. 9) 487 W. 34th St., New York

The War Today

Erzerum, the great Turkish stronghold in Armenia, of which it is the capital, has succumbed to the battering of Grand Duke Nicholas' Caucasian army.

The Kaiser's plans against England's Colonial empire are thwarted and the way opened for a grand spring drive through eastern Armenia, which might force Turkey to sue for a separate peace. It will likewise restore the military prestige of Grand Duke Nicholas, who was the victim of a bureaucratic cabal that ended in his deposition from supreme command of the Czar's army and transfer to the then unimportant Caucasian field of war.

ERZERUM FALLS BEFORE ASSAULT OF CZAR'S GUNS

Slavs Batter Way Into Turks' Stronghold in Armenian Zone

9 FORTS WON BY BAYONET

PETROGRAD, Feb. 16.—Erzerum, the strongest Turkish fortress in eastern Asia Minor, was captured by Russian troops last night. The great fortress of Erzerum, the bulwark that stopped Russian invasion of Armenia, of which it is the capital, in all previous wars, has been for a couple of months besieged by the Caucasian army of Grand Duke Nicholas.

An official statement early today reported that nine of Erzerum's forts were already in Russian hands. They were stormed and taken at the point of the bayonet in a fierce struggle up the mountain sides in zero weather. Later the stronghold succumbed.

A Turkish garrison of 160,000 was reported gathered inside the walls of Erzerum. Occupation of the forts and the capture of Russian arms than the capture of Przemysl, in Galicia. Erzerum's fall will probably pave the way for a great spring advance by the Grand Duke's army through eastern Armenia and perhaps force Turkey to sue for peace.

Erzerum is one of the most strongly fortified positions in the East. Even the most optimistic military critics hardly expected its capture until several weeks more of heavy artillery battering and infantry fighting.

Three years ago the city was defended by six great forts along the eastern out-look, but others have been built since the outbreak of the war. The city itself, with a population of about 40,000, lies at the end of a valley on a high plain. It is surrounded by a stone wall, built by the Turks three centuries ago. A high mountain ridge outside the wall and on the eastern border of the city protects Erzerum from attack from the direction of the Russian Caucasus. The strongest forts were constructed along this side. At each end is a high peak, making flanking attacks out of question and forcing the attacking army to make a frontal assault under the greatest of difficulties.

BEACH FRONT QUARREL ENDS

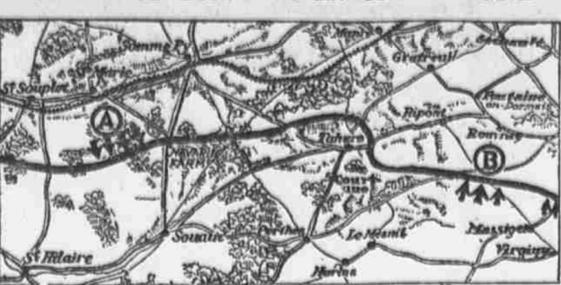
Finance Company, After 10 Years, Accepts \$150,000 for Property

A 10-year controversy between the Finance Company of Pennsylvania, of 1429 South Penn Square, and the authorities of Atlantic City, over the city's rights to the beach frontage of the \$500,000 Windsor Hotel, Atlantic City, is to be settled amicably.

This announcement was made today by the company, which owns the hotel property. According to present plans, it will accept the \$150,000 awarded by the condemnation commissioners six years ago. This sum was refused by the company and in a recent renewal of the fight the owners maintained that they were entitled to \$200,000.

George H. Earle, Jr., is president of the Finance Company of Pennsylvania, and C. William Funk is secretary and treasurer and Leonard C. Dill, assistant secretary. The company is capitalized at \$3,200,000.

SCENE OF BATTLES IN CHAMPAGNE



The road from Tahure to Somme-Py has been the bone of contention between the French and Germans now for the past week. At A the former lost ground in the furious assault by the Teutons on February 13, but now claim the recapture of part of them. At B the French have been making heavy counter attacks, winning considerable ground. Bombardment has been intense northwest of Massiges.

ASK COURT TO REMOVE HEADS OF PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE COMPANY

Charges of Fraudulent Mismanagement A re Preferred Against Union Casualty Officials

CLAIM \$100,000 DEFICIT

Sensational charges of fraudulent mismanagement were made today against the officers and directors of the Union Casualty Insurance Company, of this city, in a bill in equity filed in Court of Common Pleas No. 3 by 12 stockholders, who ask the removal of the officers and directors and their restraint from disposing of any of the company's assets.

The defendants are Abner H. Mershon, president; Roger Byrnes, vice president; Albert Morgan, secretary; Ross D. Brenner, treasurer, and John J. O'Callaghan, John T. Byrnes, George W. DeHaven, Herbert F. Stotzer and Gustav Schmall, directors. W. H. Hinton and Raymond A. White, Jr., of this city, are among the complainants, the others being residents of New York, Ohio and Indiana.

Dominion by Mershon and Roger Byrnes for their own profit, and "to the great detriment of the stockholders," is an accusation in the bill, which asks for a meeting of stockholders to elect new officers. Mershon and De Haven, at the time of the company's organization in 1908, issued stock to themselves, selling it at a profit of \$25,000, it is alleged. The bill further states that at various times, in order to conceal the company's insolvency, checks, which were never collected, were passed off as "cash in office," and that fictitious applications for policies were entered on the books of the company. W. H. Hinton and Raymond A. White, Jr., of this city, are among the complainants, the others being residents of New York, Ohio and Indiana.

WANT DEFICIT MADE UP "When the affairs of the company were examined by the Insurance Departments of the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio, the directors and officers of the company, in order to cover up and hide the true condition of the company, claimed said applications, which they knew to be fictitious, to be genuine," the bill reads, adding that the authorities ordered the company to clean up business "until an alleged \$100,000 deficit is made up."

Other accusations are made. Among which is one that Mershon and Roger Byrnes improperly took sums from the treasury and charged them to "legal" and "traveling expenses."

Besides asking for the removal of the officials named, the bill, drawn up by Attorney Maurice Sloan, asks that an injunction be issued restraining the involved officials from disposing of any of its assets or business to the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York or from taking money from the treasury; that they should be compelled to "return money improperly taken from the treasury;" that the books be examined and that a true list of stockholders be compiled. The suing stockholders own 509 shares of capital stock.

Answered Ag. Prof.—If you had two windmills on your farm and found you didn't have wind enough to run them, what would you do? Stude (promptly)—Take one down.

The House that Heppe built

FOUNDED IN 1865—ADOPTED ONE-PRICE SYSTEM IN 1881 C. J. Heppe & Son—1117-1119 Chestnut Street—6th and Thompson Streets

Through the Heppe Rental-Payment Plan You May Rent a Genuine Pianola and Apply All Rental to Purchase

Why be without a player-piano when you can rent one at Heppe's and apply all rent to your purchase price? Especially when the instrument that you can rent is a genuine Pianola—a Stroud—or even a Steinway.

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Come in, or write us—we will gladly explain fully our rental-payment plan. The Aeolian Family of the player-piano world is on sale at Heppe's At Factory Prices as follows: Steinway Pianola.....\$1150 | Wheelock Pianola.....\$750 Weber Pianola.....\$1000 | Stroud Pianola.....\$550 Francesca-Heppe Player-Pianos.....\$450 Aeolian Player-Pianos.....\$395 Terms—Cash, or charge account, or rental-payment plan All rent applies to purchase

SLAVS BEAT BACK Foe's Onslaught UPON DVINA LINE

Violent Artillery Duels Are Followed by Infantry Actions

TRENCHES EVACUATED

LONDON, Feb. 15.—All the violent attacks launched during the past week by Field Marshall von Hindenburg's forces on the Riga and Dvinsk fronts have broken down under the Russian defense fire, according to a statement issued by the Petrograd War Office.

The Russian War Office reports serious outbreaks in the German 12th Army, in the Vlna sector. A lieutenant was killed and 40 officers and many soldiers have been court-martialed, the statement says. The official statement is as follows: "Violent artillery duels, followed from time to time by infantry actions, have been going on for the last week along the Dvinsk on the Riga front. The Russians have held fast and successfully repulsed all the enemy's attempts at an offensive, and have even taken from him some lines of trenches that the Germans had evacuated owing to the murderous fire of the Russians."

"The Russians took a number of prisoners in the Riga district who said they were deserters, although there is every evidence that they were deserters."

"Violent disturbances have broken out in the 12th German Army, near Vlna. Lieutenant Raache, in command at the village of Girony, has been killed and 40 officers and numerous soldiers have been court-martialed.

"On the Dvinsk sector there has been a continuation of the desperate fighting for the possession of a crater near Iloutsk, which we now occupy. Between the Medousk Lakes enemy detachments have occupied a wood southwest of Rougenchky. "South of the Pripet, in the region of Estry, a force of Cossacks attacked an Austrian force and destroyed it.

"In the region of the upper Stripa numerous detachments of our scouts worried the enemy throughout the night, provoking an enemy fire which lasted throughout the day. On the middle Stripa our artillery fired upon four enemy aeroplanes. One of the aeroplanes was hit and fell inside the enemy's lines."

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT. The Berlin War Office statement follows: "On the front occupied by Count von Bothmer (in Volhynia) there were artillery duels. Near Grobla, on the Sereth, northwest of Tarnopol, a German battle

plane shot down a Russian aeroplane. The pilot and observers were killed. "East of Haronowitch two advanced positions which the Russians had maintained on the western bank of the Shura were stormed."

BRITISH ATTACK LINES LOST SOUTH OF YPRES

Continued from Page One effort to press back the British salient at Ypres, and the heaviest fighting has taken place around Hooge and the Ypres-Menin road.

PARIS, Feb. 15.—The French War Office issued the following communique this afternoon: "Not a single important event occurred during the night. In Champagne we have recaptured with grenades some communicating trenches east of the road from Tahure to Somme-Py."

MURDER MYSTERY GROWS

Man Suspected of Slaying Farmer and Housekeeper Released

TRENTON, Feb. 15.—With the freeing this morning of Mulford Udell, who was arrested in Bound Brook Monday and committed to the jail at Flemington, accused of the crime, the Hunterdon County authorities are more at a loss than ever in their effort to solve the killing of Richard J. Weykoff, an aged Wertsville farmer, and his housekeeper, Katherine Fisher.

Frederick Palmer is just back from Europe with the story of what the world may expect when fighting ceases—a story gathered at first hand in the trenches, in drawing rooms, on quarter-decks—a story which he tells in "WHEN PEACE COMES" in this week's issue of

Collier's THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

Victor Company Buys Corner The three-story store and apartment building at the northeast corner of Chestnut streets, lot 21st feet, has been sold by Maubbaum Brothers to Victor Talking Machine Company, which property is assessed at \$20,000. The Victor Talking Machine Company will move its store from the premises it now occupies at the southeast corner of 22d and Chestnut streets to the building just purchased.

Oriental Rugs Beautiful Pieces Extraordinary Values For Quick Clearance Notwithstanding the present great scarcity and rapidly advancing prices, we have marked hundreds of small and medium-sized pieces of the best weaves and a great number or room sizes of exceptionally fine quality and rare beauty at substantial reductions on "before-the-war" prices. Hardwick & Magee Co. 1220-1222 MARKET ST.

THOUGH automobile manufacturers have almost two hundred tire brands to choose from, and though they could "save" money by selecting one of many other tires, they give overwhelming preference to Goodyear. This is shown by the fact that one in every three cars manufactured for 1916 will be Goodyear equipped. What else can this mean except that motor car manufacturers have found, and individual tire buyers have found, that Goodyear Tires go farther and last longer and so cost less? Goodyear No-Hook Tires are fortified against: Rim-cutting—By our No-Rim-Cut feature. Blow-outs—By our On-Air Cure. Loose Treads—By our Rubber Rivets. Insecurity—By our Multiple Braided Piano Wire Base. Punctures and Skidding—By our Double-Thick All-Weather Tread.

Milady's Headgear is an essential part of her appearance. A becoming hat graces the contour of her face, and adds to the charm of her general dress. There are numerous styles in hats, but the particular woman who demands millinery with an "air of distinction" knows where she can be satisfactorily suited. Philadelphia's women use the Ledger as a guide to the city's best millinery shops. Stores which cater to women will find an advertising campaign in the Ledger a profitable investment. It reaches the better-than-average portion of the community.

Eye Talks No. 95 Our Next Talk Wed., Feb. 23 By Joseph C. Ferguson, Jr. It is necessary for the wearer of glasses to do something more than just wear the glasses in order to accomplish the desired result. No matter how skillfully the Optician has made and fitted your glasses. It is none the less necessary for you to have your eyes examined and adjusted from time to time so that they do not get out of shape. Proper care of your eyes is a serious matter. After you have chosen a thoroughly capable Optician to make your glasses, you should call on him regularly so that he can help you keep them in perfect shape. J. C. Ferguson, Jr. Prescription Optician 6, 8 & 10 South 15th St. We Do Not Examine Eyes. Write Talk from copyrighted series; all rights reserved.